

**Lighthorne Parish Council 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**County Councillor's Report**

**Budget 2021/22**

The County Council will be setting their budget for next year on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. One of our problems in setting the budget for next year is that the government has not yet indicated as to how much we will be allocated. Warwickshire is very fortunate that the savings implemented last year have helped with the unexpected expenditure in coping with the Covid 19 pandemic. Unlike other authorities we still have sufficient funds to withstand the impact. Our reserves have been adequate to purchase much needed laptops for children working from home and to provide food vouchers to help with those children who benefit from free school meals. No child has gone without. It is hoped that the Conservative budget proposals will be accepted by the council at 3%. I will, of course, advise the outcome of the formal decision next month. The budget paper amount of some 250 pages.

**Covid 19 Update as at 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Progress on our rates of infections continues to be made but more slowly than the previous week reinforcing that we must all continue to follow the lockdown rules and not get complacent in light of the success of the vaccine rollout.

Whilst figures have dropped across our area over the last seven days to 148/100,000 from 184 last week which is welcome, our current levels are now comparable to the rates of infection just after Christmas so we still have a way to go to get back to early December levels of 50/100,000.

In addition the over 60's day rate has only come down to 96/100,000 (108 last week) (with 40 cases over the last seven days), which when compared to other areas in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 276/100,000, North Warwickshire 277/100,000, Warwick 158/100,000 and Rugby 227/100,000. So Stratford and Warwick Districts have the lowest case rates.

It is difficult to compare actual rates of infection between this wave and the first wave as we did not have the extensive testing programme in place, but in terms of hospital Covid based cases the numbers are still higher than in early May. The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has improved with 43 (71) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there are 9 (9) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 29 Jan). The cumulative deaths across our area from the start of this second wave (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020) have sadly increased by a further 10 to 95 with 32 occurring in care homes, 57 in hospital and six at home, out of a total of 602 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now jumped to 440 from 378 last week within a total of 2577 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 263 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1040.

The new locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people without coronavirus symptoms in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre has now carried out 7844 tests with 44 positive results.

The vaccine rollout continues to gear up momentum and across my division is being delivered from Southam Clinic and other venues. WCC has also been involved with the setting up of the new mass vaccination site located at Stoneleigh which complements the vaccination facility in Birmingham at Millennium Point.

I am sorry that I have to give my apologies for non-attendance at the meeting since I am still enduring chemotherapy and am not strong enough to be able to make a contribution. However, if there are any issues you would like me to take up on your behalf, please contact me by email and I will attend to your matters as soon as possible.

**Cllr Chris Williams**

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